



E-NEWS



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Rise and Shine Radio Show

Revd Jack Dunion, broadcasts his own online radio show every Sunday at 9am on Lomond Radio (formerly River Radio):

<https://lomondradio.co.uk/shows/rise-and-shine>

The link below now gives access to backdated Rise & Shine programs:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/>

Michael J Hindley 1947-2021

Gordon Kuphal and Revd Bruce Jarvis write:

Michael was born in 1947 into a Catholic family in the Kearsley area, but it was during his teenage years that he came into contact with the New Church there. This connection turned out to be a highly significant development for his whole life. He joined the church youth club and badminton club and helped to organise these in partnership with Eric Yates, for many years a key figure in the Kearsley congregation, later serving the national



Michael Hindley, Deputy of the Cinque Port Liberty of Brightlingsea, 2004-5

Church as a member of Conference Council, and then as an Honorary Life Member. Michael entered enthusiastically into the young people's activities in the South Lancashire area, and quickly became a leading light in the national Church scene – the British New Church Federation.

Later he served as the secretary of the Kearsley New Church from 1967 to 1976, and he retained his connection with Kearsley throughout the rest of his life, even when he had moved to the other end of the country. On leaving school, Michael worked for a while as a clerk in a local cotton mill, but the mill closed and he then found employment at the Lancashire Education Division Office in Farnworth.

Michael first attended the national Annual Meeting of General Conference in 1967, and it was not long before he was actively involved, serving on the 'Constitution Committee' which revised all the rules governing the operation of the Church's organisation. Michael's talents for organisational matters showed themselves then and thereafter, and he greatly enjoyed the work.

Michael and Isabel Mongredien married at Kearsley New Church. After a while he took employment with Essex County Council in its Education Department and they moved with their sons Simon and Dan to live in Brightlingsea, Essex. His work was based in Chelmsford but the decision to live in Brightlingsea was because of the New Church Society there. So began many years of a daily commute to the county town. The family was a very welcome addition to the life of Brightlingsea New Church, and Michael's participation in the work of the local church soon became invaluable. He often led the services of worship and became a member of the Church Committee. He was the Secretary from 1981 to 2003, and then Chairman until the church had to close in 2016.

Meanwhile Michael served on Conference Council from 1973-1977, and rejoined it in 1987. In 2003 Gordon Kuphal, a fellow Brightlingsea member, retired as Secretary of The General Conference of the New Church. By this time Michael had been Chairman of the Conference Council for twelve years. He applied to succeed Gordon, and when appointed to the post, with the change in title of Chief Executive, he made the decision to retire from his post in the Education Department. His personal qualities and long experience as a member of the Conference Council meant that the job was indeed in safe

and efficient hands. After Michael retired as Chief Executive in 2011, he remained on the Council, assisting as Council Secretary and as vice-Chair until ill-health meant he had to resign in 2018. A total of 35 years' service on Conference Council testifies to his dedication.

Outside Michael's Church commitments, he had various interests and causes which he supported. Locally, the town of Brightlingsea benefitted from Michael's commitment to service through the Cinque Port Liberty of Brightlingsea. He was Deputy in 2004/05 and Keeper of the Records from 2008 to 2016. In 2017 he was awarded the Deputy's Medal of Merit for his services to the Liberty and more widely to Brightlingsea as Chairman of the Governors of the Colne Community School and Chairman of Brightlingsea Museum.

Although one wonders where he found the time, Michael did have a private life. He enjoyed listening to classical music and attending concerts. As part of his career development with Essex County Council, he studied at the Open University, graduating with a BA degree. He was known to enjoy a glass or two of red wine, which went well with his collection of Stuart crystal glasses. In his earlier years, he developed a keen interest in politics, and became an active supporter of the local Liberal party. Sadly, he and Isabel agreed to part, though they retained their care for their two boys and grandson, and maintained a friendly relationship.

For the last few years Michael was confined to his flat and could no longer get to church, but he was still mentally alert and retained his interest in church matters. He was always pleased to receive the Sacrament of Holy Supper. As he became physically weaker and slept more and more of the time, he had to move into a care home. It's good that the close members of his family were together with him only a few hours before his final passing on 22nd November. A private cremation service, conducted by Gordon Kuphal, was held on January 7th, followed by a Thanksgiving Service in Brightlingsea Parish Church conducted by the Area Dean of St Osyth. Warm tributes were paid to Michael before a good-sized congregation.

Michael had always been such an active person. He was devoted to the work of the Church locally and nationally, and was most conscientious in his job and in serving the community in several voluntary capacities. As we give thanks to the Lord for Michael's work among us, for his friendship, and devotion to so many good causes, it is comforting and inspiring to think of him freed now from the limitations of his physical body, and able to develop his many talents in a newer life of use in the Lord's heavenly kingdom.

Isabel, Simon and Dan Hindley wish to thank everyone for their kind cards and letters of sympathy received on Michael's passing.

Zoom Worship News



This coming Sunday, 23rd January, we will be having a family service where the children and young people join us for part of the service, then go out into a group during the main talk. Becky Jarratt will be leading worship, and Robert Clark will go out with the youngsters. We encourage any families that wish to to join us. The young people that went out last time really enjoyed the opportunity to make a contribution and to have their voices heard.

On Sunday 30th January we will not be having a service, but will be online at the usual time to hear about Logopraxis. You may have read about this in last week's E-News. David Millar and Sarah Walker of the Australian New Church are giving a question and answer session to help us understand what it is all about, and see if any of us would like to join an online group. There is no pressure to do so by attending the session, and it would be wonderful if we could show them our support for this venture. Logopraxis is about how we can apply the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg in our lives, rather than learning them for the sake of knowledge.

Our next service after this will be on 13th February:

Shared Service

The National Service on 13th February will be done slightly differently to normal.

We would ask any attendees who would like, to bring a contribution to the service on the theme of 'Love'. This could be a prayer, poem, a short reflection, music, picture, object, or anything else that speaks to you on this particular theme.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to the service please advise Gwendolen Rowe (gwendolen.e.rowe@talktalk.net) by 6th February what form this is going to take. This will enable us to create a balanced act of worship.

We hope that a number of you feel able to contribute to this alternative style of service.

— Gwendolen Rowe, Jan Millar & Anne Clarkson



Purley Services

Purley Chase will be holding some Sunday services in the coming months. There will be a Sunday lunch after the service as normal:

March 6th - Revd Helen Brown

April 3rd - Revd David Gaffney & Grant Brackley

May 1st - Revd Christine Bank